



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

North Capitol Building Elk Conference Room (Anchor Location + Electronic)
350 North State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 712-7622

Board Members Present: Jared Haddock (Carbon County) virtual, Dennis Worwood (Emery County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Sonja Norton (Uintah County) excused, Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County) virtual, Greg Miles (Duchesne County), and Jack Lytle (Daggett County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Stacey Herpel, Michael Hawley, Jon Stearmer, Lynn Sitterud, Stan Holmes, Will Lane, Lori Maughan, Jade Powell, Geri Gamber, Jeff Hartley, Chris Hayter, Roy Patel, Travis Kyhl, Brian Somers, Laura Hanson, Travis Campbell, Joel Brown, Larry Ellertson, Rees Jensen, Stephanie Brown, Lori Haslem, Jeremy Pearson, and Jake Anderegg.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Dan Hawley, Candace Powers, Jay Johnson, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen, Heather Poulson, Steve E., William Savery, Ann Harvey, Deeda Seed, Deborah Herron, and Scott Batholomew.

Others Present: (Please notify staff at 435-817-0025 of any spelling corrections or if you were present and not listed.)

Public Meeting Participation Information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://jonesanddemille.zoom.us/j/81812623532>

Or Join by Telephone:

1-253-215-8782 or

1-346-248-7799 or

1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 818 1262 3532

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting on February 12, 2026 at 1:00 PM. Chairman Miles recognized everyone in attendance and online. Chairman Miles led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment (Greg Miles)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at stacey@7county.utah.gov. Electronic written comments will be forwarded to the Board Members. All comments are summarized in the meeting minutes. A complete copy of any written comments submitted may be requested at the email address provided herein.

Chairman Miles then turned time over to Melissa Cano for those wishing to make public comments electronically.

Stan Holmes made a public comment about Michael Klein's Longview Port presentation in the January 8 meeting. Mr. Holmes commented on Michael Klein's affiliation with Pacific Port Group and Washington Development Governance PLLC and his information that may help Seven County's TIF funding decisions. Mr. Holmes had two questions. The first question is that Mr. Klein referenced the Tribal Port Authority. Was that reference to the Pelaya or Swinomish Authority or to another Tribal Port Authority? The second question is Mr. Klein's interest in tribal links including Andrew Browning's Western States and Tribal Nations that seeks to export LNG? Mr. Holmes stated that Mr. Klein said that it is important to know when you go into a project like this, what matters is the partners you have are key, the right partners. Mr. Holmes implores Seven County and the Community Impact Board to take caution in vetting potential partners and contractors.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Holmes and Ms. Cano. Chairman Miles then moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026 (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, there was one correction addressed. Chairman Miles requested a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Motion to approve the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes with amendment, by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

4. Hi Tech Solutions Nuclear (Jeff Hartley and Chris Hayter)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Jeff Hartley. Mr. Hartley thanked the board for allowing them to come speak today and wanted to introduce Chris Hayter, the President and CEO of High Tech Solutions. They provide the workforce to the existing nuclear power fleet across the United States for refueling, parts, and other things needed. Mr. Hayter's company works as a prime contractor of SubTG, Westinghouse, etc to do that work. He is currently working on a project to bring nuclear power to Utah. Mr. Hartley turned the time over to Mr. Hayter.

Mr. Hayter thanked the board for having him today and confirmed what Mr. Hartley stated and wanted to give a quick background. They left General Electric in 2003 and were incubated in a power plant. They created a new concept that you did not need an OEM to deliver your service. They started in Eastern Washington at Columbia Station. I became the owner in 2013 and we went from 30 people to over 1000. Over half of the work in nuclear power today is union work, so we have a good relationship with both union and non-union. We are working in four continents, we just opened in the United Kingdom and we have other locations opening in Switzerland and South America.

Mr. Hayter stated that the one thing that is concerning at this time is with innovation in the power industry what happens to nuclear power? Everyone is comfortable with what we are doing now and then you have hopeful people. In order for them to be successful, they have to do what nobody else can do. We are set up to help every single nuclear company develop their workforce, develop the tooling and specialty engineering that they will need, and help them with manufacturing. This is why our key partner, Holtec, is building 4 small modular reactors to start. It is going to be a workforce training campus and partnering with state universities and trade schools. The concept is for Utah and for Mountain West.

Mr. Hayter stated that in Utah, with their partners, the goal is to build an ecosystem that fulfills workforce needs, the next generations of nuclear workforce. This program will not require a degree and will be a hands-on learning environment. There will also be a need for engineers and would like to build a hands-on degree. We are short on nuclear workforce and can put another 500 people to work by spring. We do not just take anyone, there are going to be standards.

Mr. Hayter stated that they are going to be working on something new within his company. They are wanting to build some gas plants and they will need some bridge energy. We are wanting Utah to be a producer and not a consumer. Thanks for Operation Gigawatt, this has turned into a vehicle that protects and helps companies come into Utah. We will be a state that provides AI data centers so we do not have to choose between people and their rates or the data centers taking resources. We are going to be expanding the workforce development, manufacturing capabilities, partnering with construction companies and engineering companies. We hope to have production over the next five years. Mr. Hayter thanked the board for allowing them to come and talk to them today and would answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Hartley and Mr. Hayter for their presentation and information today and asked if there were any questions at this time, seeing none he moved to the next agenda item.

5. Selection of Port Study Contractor (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Director Heaton to make the announcement on the port study contractor. Director Heaton thanked the chairman and stated that there were three submissions.

Texas A & M Transportation Department, Norda Stello, and EBP

Director Heaton stated that Texas A & M was twice the cost of Norda Stello proposal and four times the cost of the EBP proposal. It came down to Norda Stello and EBP. The advisory committee, which was made up of four people, had a scale of 1 to 100 to score the proposals on experience, cost, project approach, and the people. EBP had an average score of 84 with a price of \$250,000. Norda Stello had a score of 90.5 and their price was \$488,000. The recommendation from the advisory committee is Norda Stello to do the analysis and feasibility study of the Pacific Port, focusing primarily on Oakland, Longview, Guaymas, with other potential port opportunities.

Director Heaton stated that when the contracts are signed, Norda Stello is ready to go and to have the study completed by early summer.

Chairman Miles called for a motion to move forward with the advisory committee recommendation of Norda Stello for the port study.

Motion to move forward with Norda to conduct the Port Study made by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to move forward with Norda as the contractors for the port study. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Director Heaton appreciated Jones and DeMille for putting the RFQ together and for the advisory committee for their quick response.

Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

6. ICF Request for STB work (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Director Heaton. Director Heaton stated that there was a request from the Surface Transportation Board to increase the amount allocated for the work on the railway, adding an additional \$20,888, to make it just over \$30,000 from the original estimate of \$10,000 due to the time that has passed and the additional work that needs to be done.

Chairman Miles called for a motion to approve the additional allocation of \$20,888.

Motion to increase the allocated amount to ICF in the amount of \$21,000 made by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the increased allocation. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

7. County Project Updates (Board Members)

Chairman Miles stated that he will turn the time over to the board members for any project updates at this time.

Commissioner Worwood stated that the San Rafael Energy Lab does have contracts with Valor and a couple of other contracts with other groups that are pursuing contracts with the lab. They have had a tremendous amount of construction done lately by Valor. Valor is going to do their test reactor which is being delivered to Hill Airforce Base this Sunday and then transported down. Their goal is to have a fully licensed and certified reactor by July 4th.

Chairman Miles thanked the commissioners and asked if there were any other updates at this time, seeing none he turned the time over to Director Heaton.

8. Executive Director Report (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned time over to Director Heaton for the director's report and any project updates. Director Heaton thanked the chairman and the board. Director Heaton thanked everyone for being here today.

Director Heaton stated that he appreciates Chairman Miles for securing a date of April 8th at 11 AM with the Ute Business Committee. We are working well with BIA and getting that permit finalized. Appreciation for Will Lane being here from New York. He has been working alongside us on the Forest Service application and we have that moving forward. The hope is to have all the federal permits in place to be ready with construction by July.

Director Heaton stated that he has a meeting scheduled on the Oakland Port on February 24th. The meeting will be in Midway and he has a trip planned on March 4th to Longview. At next month's meeting we should have the study and agreement finalized as well as progress reports.

Director Heaton stated that on the Jensen Water Project, we are grateful to the Community Impact Board for awarding funding. The Water District has put that out for bid and what the Coalition's role will be moving forward is undetermined.

Director Heaton stated that they are working on a BUILD grant for the railroad. BUILD funding was set aside for large transportation projects. There is between \$1,000,000 and \$25 million available as grant funding and the application should be submitted by the end of the month. They will be announcing the recipients on June 20th.

Director Heaton stated that is all the updates at this time and he is willing to answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Miles thanked Director Heaton for the update and all the work he has been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions about the Executive Directors Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

9. Engineers Report (Jones & DeMille)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Brian Barton with Jones & DeMille for the Engineers Report. Mr. Barton stated that they sent out a memo yesterday to all the commissioners. This report includes funding coordination applications, supporting documents to support all those efforts, and budget tracking.

Mr. Barton stated that he does not have any updates at this time.

Chairman Miles thanked Jones & DeMille for their update and all the work they have been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions for Mr. Barton, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

10. Communications Report (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the communications report. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Miles and stated that we now finalized the name and now we are going to go over branding and what the Commissioners would like to see. Ms. Cano stated that she has a presentation and packets that she has handed out with some color palettes and logo ideas.

Ms. Cano stated that today's discussion is going to be discussing options and picking the top three. Then she will take those top picks, rework them and then bring them back to the board.

Ms. Cano presented the objectives of today's discussion:

1. Reflects Rural Utah's identity and landscape.
2. Emphasize infrastructure and economic development.
3. Convey regional collaboration and unity.
4. To convey project leadership, credibility, and stability.
5. Support long-term growth and adaptability.
6. Ensure strong public recognition and us

Ms. Cano presented that with the logo designs to consider is:

1. Think about regional representation, connectivity, and movement.
2. Strength, Stability, Regional and Timeless
3. Clear Typography
4. Color Palette that reflects Utah's landscape, natural resources, and regional character.
5. Make sure the messaging framework supports infrastructure leadership and rural economic growth.
6. Brand standards to ensure consistency across all communication platforms.

Ms. Cano presented the strategic value of the unified brand:

1. Establish a clear and compelling brand identity for RUIC.
2. Strengthening and amplifying regional and statewide recognition.
3. Credible with funding partners and policymakers.
4. Communicate the mission and purpose effectively, support stakeholder engagement and public understanding, and position the coalition as a leading authority in rural infrastructure and economic development.

Ms. Cano presented the brand personality:

1. Trusted, collaborative, forward-looking, practical, stewardship-oriented, community-centered, and resilient.

Ms. Cano presented the brand voice and messaging style.

1. This is a Thank You. The tone should be clear, professional, regional, future oriented, and accessible to public audiences.
2. Messaging Pillars should be infrastructure investment, economic growth, regional collaboration, rural prosperity, and long-term impact.

Ms. Cano presented a powerpoint with multiple logos and color palettes. Ms. Cano went over each of the themes and there was discussion from the board on their ideas, options, and choosing their top three choices.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Cano for their update and all the work she has been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions about the Communications Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

11. Presentation, Approval and Adoption of Monthly Expenses (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Melanie Sasser for the presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. Ms. Sasser presented the financial information and requested

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payment approval today. She went on to request payment approval amounting to \$69,322.42. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today, she is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL
February 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Capitol Building (Elk Conference Room)
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Expenses Previously Approved by Board :

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
VOID	3500				
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	ACH	54124	4,358.19	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	45	269.92	Directors Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0126	2,187.68	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	718936	1,843.08	Insurance Premiums - March	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH	eycs1f3	2.10	HSA Administration Fees - January	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140130	6,228.25	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140141	1,735.00	Program Management and Engineering - Astley Valley Railway	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140132	750.00	Program Management and Engineering - Jensen Utah Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	397	3,933.20	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	398	2,225.00	Utah Rail Line - Legal Service	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2899573	10,000.00	Utah Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140140	10,800.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140140	12,600.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140140	2,300.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - BIA Draft ROD Prep - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	INV-00000173160	1,840.00	Utah Rail Line - EIS	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Kunz PC	ACH	399	250.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140131	8,000.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			\$ 69,322.42		

Motion to approve expenses for January in the amount of \$69,322.42 was made by Commissioner Lytle seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Sasser then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by January 31, 2026. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for January. We also have included a profit/loss by class which shows the funding and expenditures by project. We have detailed information for activity that has happened through January by project as well. She then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for January was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Sasser stated for information purposes only, then reviewed the project sheet. This does not require any approval from the Coalition. She stated that this concluded the financial update to the Coalition.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Sasser and Smuin, Rich & Marsing for their work efforts and moved to the closed session.

12. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles then requested a motion for a closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 2:46 PM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member	Yea ___	No ___ excused
Daggett Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Emery Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
San Juan Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Sevier Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Uintah Board Member	Yea ___	No ___ excused

Chairman Miles requested a motion to move back into open session and exit the closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 3:14 PM.

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SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member Yea ___ No ___ excused

Daggett Board Member Yea X No ___

Duchesne Board Member Yea X No ___

Emery Board Member Yea X No ___

San Juan Board Member Yea X No ___

Sevier Board Member Yea X No ___

Uintah Board Member Yea ___ No ___ excused

13. Motion to Adjourn (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Worwood at 3:15 PM.

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A motion to approve the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner

Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Stubbs.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Daggett Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Emery Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
San Juan Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Sevier Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Uintah Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Jack Lytle
Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

ATTEST:

Stacey Herpel
Stacey Herpel



(COALITION SEAL)